IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **cancel claims 16-46 and 48** without prejudice or disclaimer, and **amend claims 2, 3, 5-11, 14, 15, and 47** as follows:

1. (*Cancelled*)

2. (*Currently amended*) The valve of claim **15**, wherein the first, second, third and fourth shut-off surfaces are radially symmetrical to an actuation axis of the actuator for translating the sealing element.

3. (*Currently amended*) The valve of claim **2**, wherein the actuator includes a tappet valve connected to the sealing element.

4. (*Cancelled*)

5. (*Currently amended*) The valve of claim **3**, wherein the first and second shut-off surfaces are connected to each other and arranged so each cross-section of the first and second surfaces as connected together in planes extending in the direction of longitudinal movement of the actuator forms an essentially continuous arcuate line.

6. (*Currently amended*) The valve of claim **15**, wherein the first and second outlets and sealing element are arranged so that when the

first outlet is shut off, the first shut-off surface rests on the third shut-off surface to form an annular seal.

7. (*Currently amended*) The valve of claim 15, wherein the first shut-off surface forms an angle with the actuation axis at the annular sealing surface that is greater than or equal to 15°.

8. (*Currently amended*) The valve of claim 7, wherein the angle is at least 30°.

9. (*Currently amended*) The valve of claim 15, wherein the third and fourth shut-off surfaces are formed of material that is softer and more elastic than the first and second shut-off surfaces.

10. (*Currently amended*) The valve of claim 9, wherein the material of the third and fourth surfaces is TEFLON.

11. (*Currently amended*) The valve of claim 15, wherein the third shut-off surface has a step-shaped projection or a nose-shaped projection at one of the locations where the first and third surfaces intersect to form an annular seal.

12. (*Cancelled*)

13. (*Cancelled*)

14. (*Currently amended*) The valve of claim 15, wherein the outlets oppose each other.

15. (*Currently amended*) A valve for liquid separation comprising a valve body having an inlet and at least first and second outlets on opposite sides of the inlet, and a sealing element for closing, at different times, flow from the inlet to the first outlet and from the inlet to the second outlet, the sealing element including first and second shut-off surfaces for respectively shutting off the first and second outlets, both of the first and second shut-off surfaces including an arcuate segment, the first and second shut-off surfaces being arranged to face away from each other and being at a free end of an actuator, the valve body having third and fourth shut-off surfaces respectively associated with the first and second outlets, the third and fourth shut-off surfaces respectively being engaged by the first and second sealing surfaces when the first and second sealing surfaces respectively close the first and second outlets at different times, portions of the third and fourth shut-off surfaces respectively in closest proximity to the first and second outlets narrowing conically or as a funnel toward the first and second outlets, an outlet area being arranged between the third shut-off surface and the first outlet, the outlet area having a conically narrowing opening surface.

16-46. (*Cancelled*)

47. (*Currently amended*) The valve of claim **15**, wherein the third shut-off surface has a step-shaped projection or nose-shaped projection at an annular seal between the first and third surfaces when the first outlet is closed.

48. (*Cancelled*)